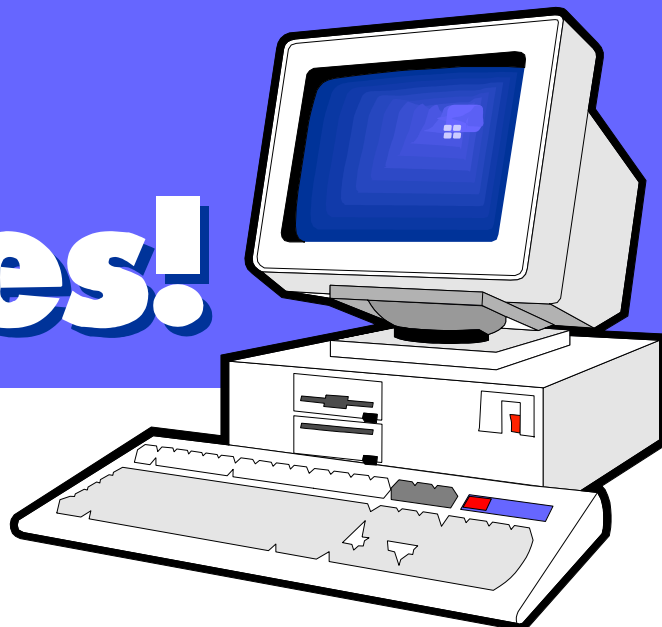


# This Computes!



## Department of Health Care Services Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #390

### Over-the-Counter (OTC) Cough and Cold Products

Effective March 1, 2012, over-the-counter (OTC) cough/cold products will no longer be a reimbursable pharmacy benefit under the Medi-Cal Program (also applies to CCS and GHPP). Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) eligible recipients are exempt from this elimination of benefit. This is in accordance with state law enacted by the Legislature within the 2010 – 2011 budget and signed by the Governor, on March 24, 2011.

CCS Counties are advised of the following:

- SARs for OTC cough and cold products for CCS clients shall be adjudicated based on the determination by CCS of the medical necessity of the requested service, in accordance with the standards of the CCS Program for children and adolescents who are medically eligible for CCS services<sup>1</sup>. This is applicable to all children and adolescents eligible for authorization of CCS services without regard to their programmatic eligibility, i.e., CCS/Medi-Cal, CCS/Healthy Families, and CCS-Only. In all such cases the rationale for the medical necessity determination shall be documented in the CCS Case Notes.

Note: A CCS client who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary with a share of cost (SOC) is eligible for the full scope Medi-Cal benefit package, including the EPSDT benefit for children and adolescents, in those months in which SOC is obligated. For such beneficiaries, services authorized by CCS to treat their CCS eligible conditions, including services provided in accordance with the EPSDT benefit, are paid for by Medi-Cal in months in which the beneficiary's SOC is met. If such beneficiaries have additionally met the program eligibility requirements of the CCS program, in months in

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<sup>1</sup> Section 123929 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 14103.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and Section 51013, Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR)

which their Medi-Cal SOC is not met; their CCS authorized services are paid for by CCS.

Payment logic in the claims payment system will automatically provide for payment of CCS claims from the correct payer source in conformance with a CCS client's operative program eligibility information in MEDS/FAME.

- SARS for OTC cough and cold products for GHPP-Only clients shall be adjudicated based on the determination by GHPP of the medical necessity of the requested services. In all such cases the rationale for the medical necessity determination shall be documented in the GHPP case notes.
- If it is determined that OTC cough and cold products are medically necessary for a GHPP-Medi-Cal client, GHPP should authorize the services using procedure code Z5999. Payment logic in the claims payment system will automatically provide for payment of GHPP claims from the correct payer source in conformance with a GHPP client's operative program eligibility information in MEDS/FAME. In all such cases the rationale for the medical necessity determination shall be documented in the GHPP case notes.

#### Helpful Reminders

Z5999 requires hardcopy (paper) billing and submission of product purchase invoice.

Link to the Medi-Cal Provider Manual covering OTC cough and cold products:

[http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-mtp/part2/drugscdlp3\\_p00.doc](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-mtp/part2/drugscdlp3_p00.doc)

If you have any questions, please contact:

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